



Advanced Concept Technology Demos Serve The Warfighter In Operation Allied Force

Critical warfighter needs throughout Operation Allied Force were met by the Department of Defense's Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD) program. The ACTD process provides modern technologies in rapid response to warfighter demands at reduced costs and time.

Products from nearly 20 percent of the 57 ACTDs developed by the program since its 1995 initiation were either deployed or prepared for deployment to the Balkans in support of Operation Allied Force. A few examples include:

The Predator Medium-Altitude Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle provided a rapidly deployable reconnaissance and surveillance capability. The ACTD process enabled a Predator deployment to the Balkans less than 19 months after the program's start (as contrasted with an average defense program development time of 11 years).

Software developed for the Precision/Rapid Counter-Multiple Rocket Launcher ACTD was used in theater for mission planning.

Precision Targeting Identification allowed a day/night target detection, classification, and dissemination capability at ranges that cannot be achieved with conventional detection and monitoring systems.

Counterproliferation I (CPI) provided an integrated strike capability to neutralize weapons of mass destruction, storage facilities, and other counter-force targets. CPI capabilities were deployed for use against hardened targets.

Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations are now a proven method for reducing acquisition cycle time, a key goal of DoD's overall acquisition reform efforts. They rapidly provide modern technology to the warfighter and save significant expense by avoiding unnecessary developmental costs. ACTD program funding — part of the President's fiscal 2000 budget currently pending in the Congress — will serve to continue these successful initiatives and permit additional urgent CINC needs to be addressed.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news> on the Internet.